

Park Memories



In the summer of 2020, the Friends of Dominion Brook Park Society received an email from Doug and Rolinda Alexander, a Victoria couple who had two photographic slides of the park taken some decades ago. We were happy to accept the slides from them, which offer a glimpse of the Park in an earlier time. One of the board members put the date at 1967 when there were roses in the park.

The Alexanders brought the slides to the park during one of our work Wednesdays. The couple had not been to the park in many years. We were able to show them the wonderful restoration that our hard-working volunteers have achieved, making the park a special place to visit. They in turn, provided us with some stories.

Both of them had grown up in the area and had visited and played in the park many times when they were young. Rolinda's father had been a research scientist at the Experimental Farm in the 1960s and the family (the Orchards) lived in one of the houses that used to be on the farm property.

We enjoy hearing from people who have known the park in past years, and are pleased to share stories, photos and memories in our newsletter.



What tree is that?



You may have seen laminated pages with a strange square symbol, hanging from a few trees in the Park this winter. These temporary signs were an experiment to see if visitors would be interested in using technology to know more about the plants that grow in the Park. The symbol is called a quick read (QR) code

and can be read by most smart phones. QR codes are commonly used in public places to provide information or allow self-guided tours.

If your smart phone camera can read the code on the paper hanging in the tree, it will link you to a website that provides information about that tree species. Not only the name but also its origins, growth habits, distribution, its ethnobotany, its distinguishing characteristics – so much more information than a name label can provide.

At this stage we are exploring options. We would love to hear if you are interested in having more information in the Park about the plants that grow there.

Buying a plant for the Park



New and replacement plantings are part of the maintenance and restoration work we do each year. We welcome funds for new plants, whether to commemorate someone special or in appreciation of the Park.

Plant selections are made consistent with the horticultural heritage and design of the Park. We consult with the District of North Saanich and the Centre for Plant Health on the type and

location of new plants. We source certified plants from local nurseries to assure their health.

At this time, our focus is on the ravine restoration. The planting plan calls for specific plants suitable for different zones and growing conditions in the Park. We can provide a list of suggested plants. Please contact us if you would like to donate funds for a plant purchase.



Rock Wall Workshop October 2021



In 2019 the Friends of Dominion Brook Park partnered with Rocks and Stones Masonry for a weekend workshop on dry stone wall building. The result was the wall that extends from the south side of the stone bridge to the steps.

Plans have been made for a second dry stone wall extending from the the north side of the bridge. COVID-19 protocols prevented us from tackling the project in 2020 but we hope we will be able to hold a

second workshop this fall. Rocks and Stone Masonry would again provide instruction and guidance.

Details will be confirmed once we know if we can proceed but we are aiming for the first weekend in October. Like last time, participation will be by donation to the Friends (\$100 recommended minimum). If you are interested in participating or would like more information please send us an email at contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca



Annual General Meeting – April 20, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.



We are not going to let COVID prevent us from having our Annual General Meeting this year.

Based on feedback from an email sent to members, we are going to hold our AGM via Zoom; in other words, we will meet on line not in person. There is also an option to phone into the meeting, if you prefer. You can “attend” from the comfort and safety of your own home.

The Board members are looking forward to sharing what has happened and what will be happening in the Park. And this is

your opportunity to elect the Board members for 2021.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, April 29 at 7:00 p.m. We will send an email with sign-in instructions to all members who wish to take part.

We thank all those who already sent an RSVP in response to our earlier email. If you have not done so already, please let us know if you would like to participate by sending an email to contactus@dominionbrookpark.ca.



A New Park Map



Our map was created in 2004 and since then significant changes have been made in the Park. In particular the stream bed and slopes in the ravine are remediated and trails are re-established. A dry stone bridge now connects the north and south ravine trails. It became obvious the park map required updating to include the new features.

We are fortunate to have Board members with the skills and software to create a map. Jane Hansen and Dawn Gould worked together on the project. Jane walked the Park with her GPS to locate key points of interest and used specialised software to create a map showing

features such as elevation, beds, paths, stairs, bridges, benches and picnic area locations within the Park boundaries. Dawn drew and added the finishing touches and created the presentation format that is modelled on our original map.

The new map will be available in multiple formats, including on our website, in print, and on display at the kiosk at the entrance to the Park. The map showcases the results of many, many volunteer hours, both to create the map and to make the improvements to the park that the new map displays. Special thanks to all who have contributed!

Staff this issue: Jody Aylard, Nancy Johnson, Karen Mervyn, Jane Hansen, Dawn Gould